PM'S visit to Colombo

4532. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister visited Colombo in March, 2005 to discuss bilateral issues;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome of his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Security Council Seat

†4533. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have refused to accept permanent membership of United Nations Security Council without veto power;

(b) if so, the reaction of other Nations of G-4 Group in this regard; and

(c) the names of the countries who have supported India's stand in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The issue of the reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council has been under discussion at the United Nations for several years. In view of the complexities and the diverse perceptions on the specifics of such reforms among member States, a decision on this issue has not been reached as yet. Regarding India's position on the issue of veto, Hon'ble Prime Minister has stated our position on the membership of the UN Security Council in the Parliament, which is that "there is no confusion regarding our position on our candidature for a Permanent Seat on the Security Council. At this point, all Permanent Members have veto powers. We are a candidate. This issue may arise in respect of any new Permanent Members who may be admitted. Our fundamental position remains clear. We do not believe there should be any discrimination in the Security Council and

† *Original notice of the question was received in Hindi*